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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/532,413	04/22/2005	Matthias Franz	10191/3944	1660
26646 7590 03/27/2008 KENYON & KENYON LLP ONE BROADWAY NEW YORK, NY 10004				
EXAMINER TUCKER, WESLEY J				
ART UNIT 2624		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 03/27/2008		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/532,413

**Applicant(s)**

FRANZ, MATTHIAS

**Examiner**

WESLEY TUCKER

**Art Unit**

2624

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 April 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-850)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4-22-05 and 11-14-05

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 12-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,987,534 to Seta.

With regard to claim 12, Seta discloses ***a method for adjusting at least one parameter of at least one image sensor of an image sensor system, the image sensor system including at least two image sensors which record essentially the same scene*** (Fig. 1, elements 1 and 2, Seta discloses a main camera and a sub camera that image the same scene for stereo imaging), ***the method comprising:***  
***when at least one error of at least one error type occurs in at least one of the image sensors, adjusting at least one parameter of the at least one image sensor as a function of at least one measured value of at least one further of the image sensors of the image sensor system*** (column 5, lines 6-15 and column 6, lines 1-64, Seta discloses a method for determining a difference in the brightness values of

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two different cameras represented by AVE1 and AVE2. If the difference between the brightness values represented by SUM exceeds a threshold, the gain is adjusted to correct for the unacceptable difference. When the difference in the brightness values exceeds a threshold this is interpreted as an error. Seta also discloses correcting brightness values of either of the cameras or image sensors by adjusting gain. Adjusting gain is interpreted as adjusting a parameter of the image sensor or camera).

With regard to claim 13, Seta discloses ***the method according to claim 12, wherein the image sensor system is in a motor vehicle*** (column 2, lines 38-40).

With regard to claim 14, Seta discloses ***the method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one parameter is at least one lighting parameter, including at least one of a gain, an offset and an integration time*** (column 6, lines 9-24, Seta discloses adjusting gain when the difference in average brightness between the two images exceeds a threshold).

With regard to claim 15, Seta discloses ***the method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one measured value is a measure of a lighting of at least one part of an image of the at least one further image sensor*** (column 5, lines 7-15, Seta discloses that the brightness which is interpreted as lighting is measured for each image and then compared).

With regard to claim 16, Seta discloses ***the method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one error type includes at least one of (a) at least one image error and (b) at least one hardware error*** (column 6, lines 9-25, Seta disclose that the error is determined if and when the average brightness difference between the two images exceeds a threshold. This is interpreted as an image error).

With regard to claim 17, the discussion of claim 12 applies. Seta discloses the method as claimed in claim 12 and further discloses performing the method using a device shown in Fig. 1.

With regard to claim 18, the discussion of claim 13 applies.

With regard to claim 19, the discussions of claims 14 and 15 apply. The processing unit is interpreted as the elements of Fig. 1, namely correction circuit 5, calculating section 13, and gain adjusters 3 and 14 as discussed.

With regard to claim 20, Seta discloses ***a processing unit for generating at least one adjustment signal for at least one parameter of at least one image sensor of an image sensor system*** (Fig. 1, the processing unit is interpreted as the elements of Fig. 1 as a whole but specifically the following components perform the

operation as claimed: correction circuit 5, calculating section 13, and gain adjusters 3 and 14 as discussed), **the processing unit comprising:**

***an arrangement for receiving at least two different images which represent essentially the same scene*** (Fig. 1, elements 1 and 2, Seta discloses a main camera and a sub camera that image the same scene for stereo imaging; **and**

***an arrangement for monitoring an occurrence of at least one error of at least one error type in at least one image sensor of the image sensor system and, in the event of an occurrence of at least one error in the at least one image sensor of the image sensor system, for generating at least one adjustment signal for at least one parameter of the at least one image sensor as a function of at least one measured value of at least one further image sensor of the image sensor system*** (column 5, lines 6-15 and column 6, lines 1-64, Seta discloses a method for determining a difference in the brightness values of two different cameras represented by AVE1 and AVE2. If the difference between the brightness values represented by SUM exceeds a threshold, the gain is adjusted to correct for the unacceptable difference. When the difference in the brightness values exceeds a threshold this is interpreted as an error. Seta also discloses correcting brightness values of either of the cameras or image sensors by adjusting gain. Adjusting gain is interpreted as adjusting a parameter of the image sensor or camera. The processing unit depicted in Figure 1 is arranged to perform the discussed operations).

With regard to claims 21- 24, the discussions of claims 13-16 apply respectively.

With regard to claim 25, the discussion of claims 12 and 20 apply. Seta discloses a computer program for executing the method discussed in the apparatus of Fig. 1 (column 5, lines 5-10 and 18-20). The steps of the program are shown in Figs. 2, 3 and 7.

With regard to claim 26, the discussion of claim 13 applies.

#### ***Contact Information***

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WESLEY TUCKER whose telephone number is (571)272-7427. The examiner can normally be reached on 9AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matt Bella can be reached on 571-272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Wes Tucker/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624